

REMARKS

Claims 50-97 are presently pending. Claims 1-49 have been canceled. Claims 50-97 have been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks appearing below.

Patentability of the New Claims

Applicants have canceled all of the claims 1-41 and 43-49 that were pending prior to the present Office Action. Applicants note that they have not canceled these claims as a result of the rejections in the present Office Action. To the contrary, Applicants believe that canceled claims 1-41 and 43-49 are patentable over the references of record, including the Brady et al. and Rivette et al. patents the Examiner cited in making the obviousness-type rejections of the present Office Action. That said, Applicants set forth herein new claims that Applicants believe are patentable over the references of record, including the Brady et al. and Rivette et al. patents, in any combination with one another and/or with any other references of record and/or ordinary skill in the art. Applicants believe these claims more clearly express the present invention.

Regarding the Brady et al. patent, again Brady et al. disclose methods for generating and managing a database. The method includes, among other steps, retrieving documents from a network of documents using automatic mining or crawler software, harvesting information from specific fields of the document using harvesting software, classifying the harvested information according to a desired taxonomy using taxonomy software and storing the classified and harvested information in a database. Once the database is generated, a user can search the database so as to determine the most relevant documents relative to a particular search query. Using the search results, the user can link to the document(s) of interest. The database can be updated (maintained) by periodically repeating the automatic mining, harvesting, classifying and storing steps to store information relating to documents posted to the network since the last update and remove information relating to documents no longer posted.

Rivette et al. disclose a system and method for processing information from, and relating to, patents. The system maintains patent databases (col. 18, lines 23 et seq.) containing patent documents, and other databases, e.g., document databases (col. 18, lines 23 et seq.) containing

non-patent documents, patent bibliographic databases (col. 19, lines 8-53), document bibliographic databases (col. 19, lines 1-7) and group databases (col. 20, line 39 to col. 22, line 27), among others. Group databases generally contain a data structure for each group that lists patents relating to that group. The system further includes analysis modules (col. 36, lines 19-54) for processing patent information of patent databases and other information in other databases. These databases and the analysis modules, among other components of the system, reside on an enterprise server. One or more clients communicate with the enterprise server and allow corresponding users to use the system for analyzing the "patent-centric" information stored on the enterprise server in the databases discussed above.

Generally, the Rivette et al. system and method appear to work as follows. At least one group is identified and stored in the group database. Again, each group generally comprises a list of patents stored in the patent databases and, optionally, other documents stored in other databases of the system. The group may be automatically compiled by the system or may optionally be compiled by a user via a client, e.g., using search tools for searching the various databases of the system.

Once a group has been established, the same or another user may initiate via a client one of the various analysis modules, each of which operates on the relevant databases of the system and sends the results of the analysis to the client. The client includes modules corresponding to each of the analysis modules on the enterprise server. These client-side modules allow the user to configure the results sent by the enterprise server in the manner most desired by the user. The system also includes an exporting patent data module, which allows a user to download portions of the system databases, e.g., particular patents from the patent database, to any location the user specifies.

Neither the Brady et al. patent nor the Rivette et al. patent, nor any combination of the two, disclose or suggest at least the following limitations of new claims 50-97:

- developing, receiving or providing computer instructions for a set of search arguments and searching a first database using at least some of these search arguments (the Brady et al. document retrieval is based on automatic Web crawling, i.e., no search arguments are used) [claims 50, 63, 75, 87];

- entering, or providing computer instructions for entering, the ones of the plurality of search field values corresponding to the plurality of retrieved documents into a second database [claims 50, 63, 75, 87];
- filtering, or providing computer instructions for filtering, retrieved documents retrieved using some of the search arguments by using others of the search arguments [claims 51, 64, 76, 89];
- forming, or providing computer instructions for receiving, a plurality of HLA clusters (high level abstraction clusters) and assigning each of the retrieved documents to one of the HLA clusters [claims 52, 65, 77, 90];
- entering, or providing computer instructions for entering, cluster identifiers into the second database [claims 53, 66, 78, 91];
- filling out, presenting, or providing computer instructions for presenting, an HLA framework form [claims 54, 67, 79, 92];
- associating weights with, receiving, or providing computer instructions for receiving, weights for user-defined fields [claims 55, 68, 80, 93];
- entering, or providing computer instructions for entering, weights into the second database [claims 56, 69, 81, 94];
- tallying, or providing computer instructions for tallying, the weights [claims 57, 70, 82, 95];
- developing a set of search arguments by filling out a first input form or presenting, or providing computer instructions for presenting, a first input form for developing a set of search arguments [claims 58, 71, 83, 96];
- developing a set of search arguments by populating a first input form with documents already known to a user [claim 59];
- developing a set of user-defined fields by filling out a second input form or presenting, or providing computer instructions for presenting, a second input form for developing a set of user-defined fields [claims 60, 72, 84, 97];
- developing a set of user-defined fields by populating a second input form with answers to questions relating to a business of a user or receiving, or providing computer

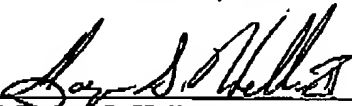
instructions for receiving, via a second input form answers to a plurality of questions relating to a business of the user [claims 61, 73, 85]; and

- assigning weights to answers provided in a second input form or receiving, or providing computer instructions for receiving, weights corresponding to answers via a second input form [claims 62, 74, 86].

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50-97 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

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BTV.271694.1